

HOUSE BILL 839

By Lynn

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to the Wholesome Public School Learning
Environment Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 3, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) This section is known and may be cited as the "Wholesome Public School
Learning Environment Act."

(b) A teacher or other employee of an LEA shall not discuss the following with a
student of the LEA during school instruction or a school activity:

(1) Sexual preference; and

(2) Drug use.

(c) An LEA, teacher, or other employee of an LEA shall not display symbols of
drugs or drug paraphernalia on school property.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-201, is amended by deleting
subdivision (c)(24).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-214(b), is amended by deleting
the subsection and substituting:

(b) The department of education may prepare and distribute to LEAs guidelines
for incorporating into local staff development and in-service training the materials and
speakers necessary to help educators reduce gang and individual violence and to
provide educators with the tools for nonintrusive identification of potentially violent
individuals in and around schools. The department may, upon request, assist LEAs in

developing comprehensive violence prevention in-service training programs.

Department guidelines must encourage the sharing of resources, the development of joint or collaborative programs, and the coordination of efforts with local health departments, county and city law enforcement agencies, and other public agencies providing health, gang violence prevention, and other related services.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by deleting the part.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-303(b)(5), is amended by deleting "social awareness and drug awareness" and substituting "and social awareness".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1017(b)(4), is amended by deleting the subdivision.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1024(a), is amended by deleting "drugs, alcohol,".

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1304(a)(9), is amended by deleting "underage drinking, drug use,".

SECTION 9. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.